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Military License Plates

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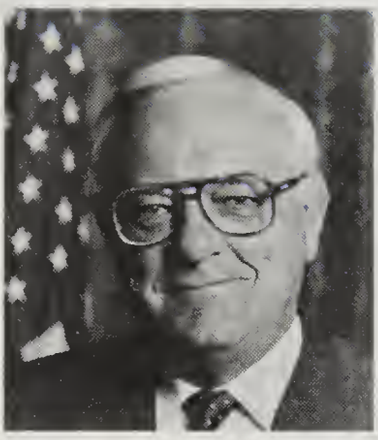
George H. Ryan
Secretary of State

A Message from the Secretary



The Illinois Secretary of State's office, in order to recognize those who have served our country, offers nine military service–related license plates.

Armed Forces Reserves, Retired Armed Forces and Illinois National Guard license plates were created to acknowledge those individuals who are working or have worked to protect citizens in times of national emergency and disaster.

The Disabled Veteran, Ex-Prisoner of War, and Purple Heart license plates honor those who endured the pains of war while defending this nation. The Gold Star license plate honors the spouses or parents of persons who lost their lives while in the service, whether in peacetime or war.

The Pearl Harbor Survivor plate recognizes those who participated in the battle that brought our nation into World War II.

Illinois also honors those recipients of the highest award given by our country, the Congressional Medal of Honor, for their actions far beyond the call of duty.

If you qualify for any of the above special plate categories, I encourage you to obtain the recognition you rightfully deserve.

George H Ryan

Secretary of State

CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR

Any resident of Illinois who has been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor is eligible to apply for these plates at no cost. For further information, contact the Non-Standard Plates Section.

GOLD STAR

Any Illinois resident who has been awarded the Gold Star and is the surviving spouse or — if there is no spouse — the surviving parent of a service member who has lost his or her life while in the U.S. Armed Forces may apply for one set of these plates.

Required: an affirmation statement attesting to receipt of the Gold Star, including the service member's name and relationship to the applicant.

DISABLED VETERAN

Any United States Armed Forces veteran who has a 100 percent military disability or who is eligible to receive a grant from the U.S. government toward the purchase of a vehicle may obtain one set of DV plates. No fees are required for these plates.

NOTE: Vehicles displaying DV plates may occupy areas specifically reserved for use by handicapped persons. Parking meter fees and time limitations are also waived, except at meters, signs or other markings with time limitations of 30 minutes or less.

Required: a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs verifying that you: (1) are 100 percent military service disabled, or (2) are eligible to receive a grant from the U.S. government toward the purchase of a vehicle, or (3) have received a grant from the U.S. government toward the purchase of a vehicle.

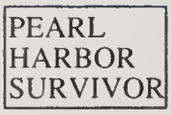
RETIRED ARMED FORCES

Any retired member of the U.S. Armed Forces who resides in Illinois may apply for these plates.

Required: a copy of D.D. Form 2 (U.S. Uniformed Service I.D. Card) verifying full retirement status.

NOTE: Members of the Armed Forces Reserves or Illinois National Guard who have not reached the age of 60 must submit a copy of D.D. Form 2 and documentation showing transfer to retired status.

PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR



Any Illinois resident, who, while a member of the United States Armed Forces, participated in the battle of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, may apply for these plates.

Required: an affirmation stating the applicant was present on the island of Oahu or aboard ship within three miles of the island at the time of the attack.

EX-PRISONER OF WAR

Any U.S. citizen who is a present or former member of the U.S. Armed Forces or any of its Allies and who was a prisoner of war may apply for these plates. *Only one set of "X-POW" plates shall be issued.* No fee is required for these plates.

The widowed spouse of a former member of the U.S. Armed Forces may apply for the plates, providing that the widowed spouse: (1) was married to the ex-prisoner of war at the time the ex-prisoner of war died, **and** (2) is single at the time of the application.

The ex-prisoner of war's name must appear as owner or co-owner on both the title and the registration application.

Required: a form from the federal government or a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs verifying your ex-prisoner of war status.

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PURPLE HEART

Any U. S. citizen who resides in Illinois and has been awarded the Purple Heart by a branch of the Armed Forces may apply for these plates.

The Purple Heart recipient may apply for as many sets of these plates as he or she has vehicles titled, registered or leased in his or her name.

Required: a copy of the Discharge from Military Service (DD214) **or** a letter of verification showing your status as a Purple Heart recipient from the Department of Veterans Affairs **or** the federal government.

ILLINOIS NATIONAL GUARD AND ARMED FORCES RESERVES

Any active member of the Illinois National Guard or Armed Forces Reserves who resides in Illinois and has a 12-month term of enlistment may apply for these plates.

The Reservist or National Guard member may apply for as many sets of these plates as he or she has vehicles titled, registered or leased in his or her name.

Required: a completed affirmation statement from the military unit showing the member's term of enlistment, signed and completed by the unit commander or representative. The term of enlistment must cover the full 12-month vehicle registration period being applied for.

NOTE: If the term of enlistment does not extend through the registration period for which you are applying, and you plan to re-enlist, complete both sides of the affirmation statement verifying that you will be an active member for the 12-month registration period.

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HOW TO APPLY

1. Submit a completed affirmation form or a letter of verification showing status from the federal government or from the Department of Veterans Affairs.
2. If the vehicle is registered in the name of the person who served or is serving in the Armed Forces, submit a current registration card or a copy of the title along with a completed title and registration application and applicable fee. (*See "Registration Information" section.*)
3. If the vehicle is not titled and registered in the name of the person who served, submit the properly assigned manufacturer's certificate of origin or title along with a completed title and registration application and applicable fees.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

If your present Illinois license plates **expire within 60 days** and you have not renewed your registration, please submit the following items:

1. A preprinted renewal application or a properly completed registration application.
2. The documentation required for the plate category for which you are applying.
3. Proof of ownership.
4. Annual registration fee of $48 (applicable only to Armed Forces Reserves, Retired Armed Forces, Illinois National Guard and Purple Heart plates).
5. A fee of $15 in addition to the $48 registration fee (applicable only to Gold Star license plates). *NOTE: An additional $2 fee is required upon renewal of Gold Star plates.*

If your current license plates **do not expire within 60 days,** you must apply for a reclassification by submitting the following:

1. A properly completed registration application.
2. The documentation required for the plate category for which you are applying.
3. Your current license plates and registration card.
4. A $5 reclassification fee (additional $15 for Gold Star plates).

BASIC FACTS

- All titles, transfers, duplicate registration cards and replacement license plates are subject to standard fees.
- Military license plates may be displayed on the following types of vehicles: passenger cars, trucks and vans weighing 8,000 pounds or less.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For further information regarding military license plates, contact:

Secretary of State
Non-Standard Plates Section
Centennial Building
Springfield, IL 62756

Armed Forces Reserves: (217) 782-2470
Congressional Medal of Honor: (217) 782-2470
Disabled Veterans: (217) 782-3166
Ex-Prisoner of War: (217) 785-4175
Gold Star: (217) 524-1560
Illinois National Guard: (217) 782-2470
Purple Heart: (217) 785-4175
Retired Armed Forces: (217) 524-1560
Pearl Harbor Survivor: (217) 785-6901

TOLL-FREE: (800) 252-8980
Mon. — Fri., 8 a.m. — 8 p.m.
Sat., 8 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.

HISPANIC LINE: (312) 793-1338/1339
Mon. — Fri., 8:30 a.m. — 5 p.m.

For further information regarding documentation for Disabled Veteran and Ex-Prisoner of War plates, contact:

Illinois Department of
Veterans Affairs
833 S. Spring
Springfield, IL 62704
(217) 782-3418

Veterans Administration
Regional Office
536 S. Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60605
(312) 663-5519

For further information regarding documentation for Purple Heart plates, contact:

Illinois Department of
Veterans Affairs
833 S. Spring
Springfield, IL 62704
(217) 782-3418

National Personnel Records Center
9700 Page Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63132

MANDATORY VEHICLE INSURANCE

All motor vehicles registered and operated in Illinois must be covered by liability insurance—insurance that covers the property damage and/or injuries you may cause others in an accident.

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